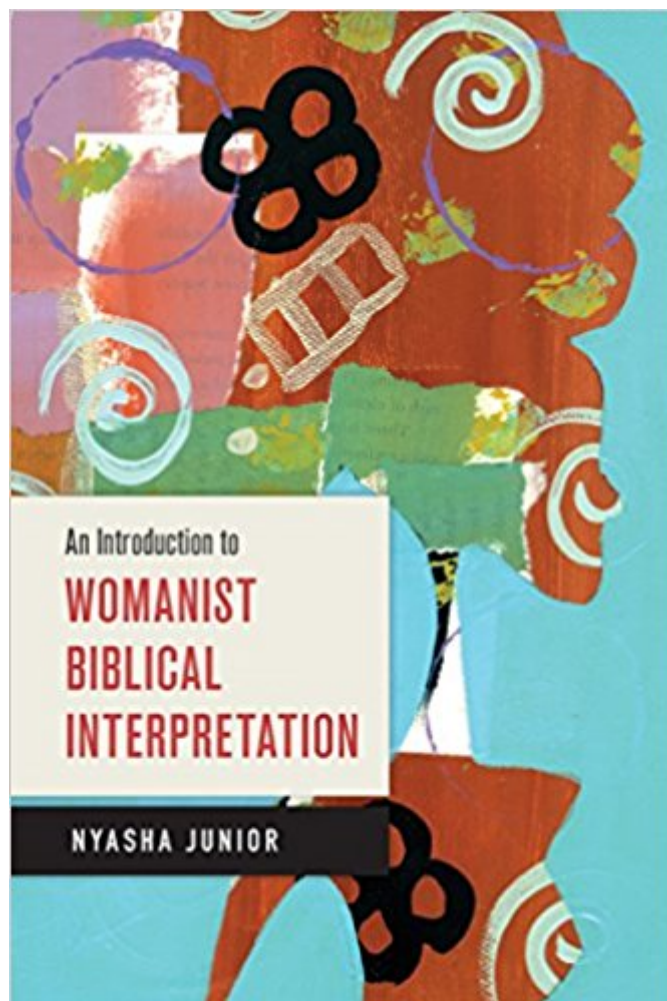


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# An Introduction To Womanist Biblical Interpretation



## Synopsis

An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation provides a much-needed introduction to womanist approaches to biblical interpretation. It argues that womanist biblical interpretation is not simply a byproduct of feminist biblical interpretation but part of a distinctive tradition of African American women's engagement with biblical texts. While womanist biblical interpretation is relatively new in the development of academic biblical studies, African American women are not newcomers to biblical interpretation. Written in an accessible style, this volume highlights the importance of both the Bible and race in the development of feminism and the emergence of womanism. It provides a history of feminist biblical interpretation and discusses the current state of womanist biblical interpretation as well as critical issues related to its development and future. Although some African American women identify themselves as "womanists," the term, its usage, its features, and its connection to feminism remain widely misunderstood. This excellent textbook is perfect for helping to introduce readers to the development and applications of womanist biblical interpretation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Nyasha Junior's An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation is brilliant in its simplicity. Junior has written a teachable text in clear and compelling language. More than that, Junior dispels common misconceptions and offers a cultural and intellectual history of African American women's engagement with biblical texts. Junior depicts intellectual controversies with equanimity and breadth

while highlighting the strengths of those who work in such a marginalized field. Realistic and hopeful, Junior's assessment is relevant for students and scholars in theology, biblical scholarship, Christian ethics, and black religious scholarship. This is the book we all wish we had earlier in our studies." — Monica A. Coleman, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology and African American Religions, Claremont School of Theology

Nyasha Junior is that welcome combination of rigorous scholar and lucid, accessible writer. These traits are on clear display in *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation*. The sweep of her project entails perhaps the most comprehensive cross-disciplinary survey to date of womanism, one the most dynamic and fecund developments in academia in the last several decades. But her primary focus is biblical studies. Professor Junior has crafted an indispensable resource for understanding the depth and the breadth of the interpretive possibilities of womanism for critical biblical study. This very useful text should grace the desks of every theological student — and perhaps their professors, too. — Obery Hendricks, Visiting Scholar and Faculty Research Fellow, The Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS), Columbia University, and author of *The Politics of Jesus*

Nyasha Junior is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible at Temple University. She writes frequently for several websites and journals, including *The Huffington Post*, *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and *Inside Higher Ed*.

Don't be deceived by the size of this book (under 200 pages), Nyasha Junior packs a lot of information into this book. For someone who is relatively new to the term "womanist" and to its unique contribution to biblical interpretation, this book is just sort that I was looking for. First, Junior doesn't make assumptions about the reader's knowledge, but also doesn't make a reader with some background knowledge feel like they are wasting their time and money. She begins by discussing the history of and definition of the terms "feminist" and "womanist." Then gives the reader some context pre-dating the usage of those terms. Next, Junior provides the reader with a brief survey of works and authors as well as their importance and place in the continuing development of womanist biblical interpretation. It is a reader-friendly guide that does not get bogged down by unnecessary asides nor does she attempt to throw everything and the kitchen sink into a single volume. The book is a starting point for discussion and further research rather than striving to be a definitive single-source volume. Just as valuable as the text itself is the resource list at the end of every chapter and copious footnotes throughout.

This is a really comprehensive volume packed into a tightly written package. While it covers much of the feminist and womanist scholarship it is also really accessible to an average reader. I think it would be a great class text. I've cited it in a paper already. Kudos to Junior and this latest wave of womanist biblical scholars.

Great read for anyone interested in Womanist Theology.

Required reading in biblical studies. Suited for undergraduates, graduates, advanced scholars.

Sometimes you don't even know what you don't know. This book helped me become aware of how little I know about womanist thought in general, and womanist biblical interpretation more specifically. Junior's writing is clear & concise - Great for an introductory book. She traces African American women's interpretation of & engagement with biblical texts, linking womanist biblical interpretation to these long traditions. By positioning womanist thought & biblical interpretation in this history, Junior deemphasizes its connection to feminist thought. This is good & important because feminism in the US has close historical ties to white women & racist thought. I suspect it's easy for (white) feminists to privilege the links between womanism and feminism over the links to African American women's traditions, and this book was a helpful corrective (to me, a white feminist). Junior's book was enjoyable to read and it gave a clear introduction to womanist biblical interpretation. It will be important to biblical studies in general and it will be helpful for upper division undergraduate and graduate courses. Readers with an interest in womanist thought, religious studies, and biblical studies would be well-served by reading this book.

This work is essential to building a foundation for womanist perspectives of the Bible. It is well thought out, easily accessible, and bridges numerous fields of study. This work has impacted my preaching as well as my approach to the Biblical text.

An excellent text to introduce readers into the field of womanist theology.

Excellent. Thorough and scholarly.

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